

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Electric Distribution Utilities
Vermont Department of Public Service
Interested persons (see distribution list, attached)

From: Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board

Re: Electricity affordability program workshop, July 17, 2006, 1:00 P.M., Public
Service Board Hearing Room

Date: June 12, 2006

Act 208 of the 2006 General Assembly, Section 10a, requires the Public Service Board to "design a proposed electricity affordability program in the form of draft legislation." The program is to be developed with the aid of an "electricity affordability program collaborative" composed of

. . . representatives from the electric utilities, residential customers, consumer representatives, low-income program representatives, elderly program representatives, the department of public service, the department of human services, and other stakeholders identified by the Board . . .

The Act requires that the Board submit its draft legislation to the General Assembly for consideration in January, 2007.

The legislation includes a number of goals and requirements for program design. The actual language of Act 208 can be viewed on the Vermont Legislature's website at: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2006/acts/ACT208.HTM>

The Board will hold a workshop on this topic on Monday, July 17, 2006, at 1:00 P.M., in the Public Service Board hearing room, 3rd Floor, Chittenden Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont. The purpose of the workshop is to gather input leading to a work plan for collaborative input on the development of draft energy affordability program legislation. In order to make the initial workshop as productive as possible, the Board

requests that those interested in participating in the collaborative provide written comments by close of business, July 10, 2006, on the following questions:

- (1) What process should the Board use for an electricity affordability program collaborative to aid the Board in developing draft electricity affordability legislation?
- (2) What individuals and groups should be invited to participate who are not on the initial distribution list for this memo?
- (3) Is the assistance of paid consultant resources necessary to this process? If so, what recommendations do commenters have for the type and scope of assistance needed, as well as how any such assistance should be paid for?
- (4) What should the time frame be for the collaborative process?
- (5) In what way should the development of the electricity affordability program relate to the affordability study required of the Department of Public Service by Section 10b of Act 208? If commenters believe affordability program design should be informed by the study required by Section 10b, what are the implications of that interdependency for the timing of the collaborative input process?
- (6) Does any potential participant object to the use of e-mail as the means of exchanging information within the collaborative process of developing the affordability program?
- (7) What other issues should be considered in the initial workshop?

Commenters are encouraged to submit comments electronically with one paper copy to the Board. All comments will be posted on the Board's website. In addition, the Board will e-mail all persons requesting to be on the e-mail distribution list for the project to inform them when comments have been posted.

If you wish to be included on the e-mail distribution list, please so notify the Clerk at Clerk@psb.state.vt.us and include "electricity affordability" in the subject line.

If you intend to participate in the July 17 workshop, please RSVP to the Clerk@psb.state.vt.us so that we can plan for the correct number of participants.

Questions about the workshop may be directed to Deena Frankel, dfrankel@psb.state.vt.us, phone 802-828-1167.

List of Invitees:

Electric distribution utilities (21)

Vermont Department of Public Service (David O'Brien, Richard Smith, Sarah Hofmann, Sharon Allen)

Vermont Department for Children and Families (Steven Dale, Commissioner)

Home Heating Fuel Assistance Program (Pam Dalley)

Vermont Agency of Human Services (Cynthia LaWare, Secretary)

Efficiency Vermont

AARP Vermont (Philene Taormina)

Vermont Public Interest Research Group

Vermont Legal Aid, Inc.

Community of Vermont Elders (COVE)

Area Agencies on Aging (5)

Community Action Agencies (5)

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority